

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/001528

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: E04F 21/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI: IPC E05B/-, E05F/-, F28C/-, E04F/- and keywords; deck, patio, board, plank, timber, gap, space, wedge, gauge, gang, plural & similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| A | AU 85557/01 A1 (HAMILTON) 8 May 2003 | |
| A | US 6510621 B2 (CAMARA et al) 28 January 2003 | |
| A | US 1549671 A (KRIDLER et al) 11 August 1925 | |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

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| * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family |
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|---|---|
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 18 November 2004 | Date of mailing of the international search report 26 NOV 2004 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized officer VINCE BAGUSAUSKAS Telephone No : (02) 6283 2110 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001528

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See the additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/001528

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: III

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1 to 13 and 35 are directed to a decking tool gauge. It is considered that the detachable spacer member having a plurality of spacer elements comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 14 to 23 and 35 are directed to a decking tool gauge. It is considered that the spacer elements having a part of the side surfaces parallel comprises a second special technical feature.
3. Claims 24 to 37 are directed to a decking tool gauge. It is considered that the abutment member comprises a third "special technical feature".

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is spacer elements with a predetermined size equal to the predetermined deck gap space. However this concept is not novel in the light of AU 85557/01. Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/001528

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report | | Patent Family Member | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|---------|---------------|
| AU | 8555701 | | | |
| US | 6510621 | CA | 2417510 | US 2002083610 |
| US | 1549671 | | | |

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX